

CITATION TO APPEAR BEFORE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Citation issued November 29, 2011

By Advent Lutheran Church Congregation Council

To Charlie Dean – Member of Advent Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas,

To appear before congregation council on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 PM

Regarding Disciplinary Action per Advent's Constitution Chapter 15 – Discipline of a Member

ADVENT CONSTITUTION CHAPTER 15 - DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

C15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: (a) private admonition by the pastor, (b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and (c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council.

C15.02. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

C15.03. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the Congregation Council, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation;
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. exclusion from membership in this congregation. Disciplinary actions (b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.)

C15.04. The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

C15.05. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of (a) evidence that injustice has been done or (b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

CHARGES

- **Unauthorized use of Advent's name** in the creation of a web site (<https://sites.google.com/site/itrgrupadvent/>) with headings and content implying belonging to and sanctioned by Advent. Use of Advent's name on a new public web site should have been authorized by council prior to creation. Charlie has refused our direct requests to remove the web site that uses Advent's name from the Google site he created.
- **Unauthorized publicizing of Advent documents** not approved for general public distribution. Publication of Advent's documents on a public web site should have been authorized by council prior to posting. Charlie has refused our direct requests to remove and cease publicizing of documents not approved for general public distribution.
- **Inappropriate and unauthorized use of information from Advent's membership directory.** The membership directory contains private information that its members expect to be used in an appropriate manner. The responsibility and governing of that use lies with the council. Mass solicitation using member's email address should have been authorized by council prior to being sent. Charlie has refused our direct requests to cease use of membership information for mass voicing of his opinions and solicitations for membership to an "IT&R Group".
- **Unauthorized solicitation for membership and/or participation to a committee or group using Advent's name implying to belong to and sanctioned by Advent.** Advent committees and/or groups must submit their purpose for review and be approved by council prior to being established and membership solicited for. Charlie has refused our direct requests to cease solicitation and advertising of an "IT&R Group" that has not been approved by council.
- **Persistent trouble making in the congregation.** Over a year of continual and persistent accusations to the Advent council, Advent membership, ELCA Synod office and ELCA main office of censorship as well as other issues that are becoming increasingly difficult to discern other than an overall tone of dislike for Advent, its procedures, authority over its property and processes being amongst some of the indicated complaints. Having not gained one known supporter over this time, rational behavior would expect resignation of membership and look elsewhere to contribute his time in a more productive environment. Charlie's behavior though is to be continually argumentative with persistent verbal sparring. Advent has neither the resources nor time to invest in such non-productive activity.

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- **Behavior opposed to acknowledging, respecting and abiding by the decisions of the church council concerning Advent's property.** The council being an official governing body of Advent as granted thru the constitution and bylaws, a governing body at Advent for almost 50 years, and is recognized as such by congregation and the ELCA church body of which Advent belongs to.
- **Behavior opposed to recognizing the property of Advent Lutheran Church** includes not only its real property, but also its name and any form of such that in application implies a representation of Advent Lutheran Church. It also includes its membership directory and the information therein with the responsibility to meet the membership's expectation of appropriate use. Also included are all of Advent's records and reports, including financial reports and meeting minutes.
- **Behavior opposed to the powers of council** including governance over the use of Advent's property, overseeing, protecting and maintaining as they deem necessary and reasonable to the mission of Advent. Further Advent has empowered the council to oversee the creation and ongoing activities of its organizations, committees and any other groups that explicitly or implicitly imply being sanctioned and/or representative of Advent Lutheran Church.
- **Behavior opposed to recognizing and respecting the council** as its organizational leadership and as such abiding by its decisions and requests regarding Advent's property, organized groups and activities.

REQUIREMENTS OF CHARLIE DEAN

The council of Advent Lutheran Church requires a confirmation from you that you agree, regard and will abide by each of the following points.

- I will agree, regard and abide by the property of Advent Lutheran Church includes not only its real property, but also its name and any form of such that in application implies a representation of Advent Lutheran Church. It also includes its membership directory and the information therein with the responsibility to meet the membership's expectation of appropriate use. Also included are all of Advent's records and reports, including financial reports and meeting minutes.
- I will agree, regard and abide by the powers of council include governing over the use of Advent's property, overseeing, protecting and maintaining as they deem necessary and reasonable to the mission of Advent. Further Advent has empowered the council to oversee the creation and ongoing activities of its organizations, committees and any other groups that explicitly or implicitly imply being sanctioned and/or representative of Advent Lutheran Church.
- I will agree, regard and abide by recognizing and respecting the council as Advent's organizational leadership and as such abide by its decisions and requests regarding Advent's property, organized groups and activities.

I, Charlie Dean, agree wholly, fully and without any reservation to the all of the above, recanting my previous actions, behaviors and disruptions and will strive to be a productive member of Advent with my fellow members.

Signature _____ Date _____

We pray this will be a new beginning of an effective partnership and relationship between you and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in our community of hope, making Christ known at Advent Lutheran Church.

Advent Lutheran Church Congregation Council